

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Laura Zeman on March 30, 2010.

Cancel claims 2, 3 and 12-20.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. An apparatus for transferring pipette tips comprising:

a transfer plate having a plurality of plug members for engaging pipette tips wherein the plurality of plug members are part of the transfer plate, and a plurality of elongated slots that separate parallel lines of the plurality of plug members; and

a frame assembled and interlocked with the transfer plate, said frame having horizontal elongated slots contained therein for inserting the plug members therethrough, coplanar horizontal elongated rails separating the horizontal elongated slots, and a plurality of protuberances smaller than said plug members extending from the coplanar horizontal elongated rails into the horizontal elongated slots wherein the protuberances are part of the frame, the horizontal elongated slots in the frame are configured to fit within the elongated slots of the transfer plate.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1, and 4-11 are allowed and have been renumbered 1-9, respectively.

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the known prior art teaches or fairly suggests an apparatus for transferring pipette tips as currently set forth in claim 1 above. The Office considers the closest prior art to be to Arnold Jr. et al., (US Patent Pub. No. 2003/0129089) hereinafter "Arnold". In particular, Arnold fails to teach or suggest the claim element of the horizontal elongated slots in the frame configured to fit within the elongated slots of the transfer plate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to P. Kathryn Wright whose telephone number is (571)272-2374. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday, 9 AM to 6 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. Kathryn Wright/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797